

Julie Masters, Mayor  
Charles Suderman, Mayor Pro Tem  
Sean Skipworth  
Walter Wilson

# **MINUTES**

City of Dickinson  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

Wally Deats  
Louis Decker  
William H. King III  
Chris Heard, City Administrator

**July 28, 2020**

The Dickinson City Council met in a duly called and announced **REGULAR MEETING** on **Tuesday, July 28, 2020**, at **7:00 p.m.** In accordance with order of the Office of the Governor issued March 16, 2020, the City Council of the City of Dickinson, Texas conducted the meeting by telephone and video conference in order to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called “social distancing”) to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The meeting was held for the purpose of considering the following items:

**ITEM 1.) CALL TO ORDER AND CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM**

Mayor Masters called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. City Secretary Alun Thomas called roll and certified a quorum. Council Members present were as follows: Mayor Julie Masters, Mayor Pro-Tem Charles Suderman, and Council Members Sean Skipworth, Walter Wilson, Wally Deats, Louis Decker, and William H. King, III. Also present were City Attorney David Olson, City Administrator Chris Heard, Finance Director Penny Hunter, and Assistant to the City Administrator Kerilyn Bascle.

**ITEM 2.) INVOCATION**

Council Member King gave the invocation.

**ITEM 3.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Skipworth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM 4.) PROCLAMATIONS**

None.

**ITEM 5.) ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

**A. Council Comments.**

- Welcome to everyone attending the meeting.
- Dickinson is under a mask order to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19); everyone is encouraged to take the necessary precautions to stay healthy.
- There was a protest on Saturday, July 25 for Black Lives Matter, as well as a counter-protest by open-carry gun advocates. Council Member Skipworth said that people are allowed to protest – as they should be – and that cities must allow peaceful protests. He asked that

protestors act respectfully and take the time to speak to each other in civil discourse rather than arguing. America, he said, is bitterly divided and we need to resolve our differences. Council Member King thanked Police Chief Ron Morales, Police Captain Oscar Stoker, and the whole Dickinson Police Department for their communication with the protests' organizers and for their involvement in keeping everyone safe. Council Suderman said that we have the right to protest, but not to riot, damage property, or hurt people.

- Council Member Decker said that although he maintains that the trees overhanging the rights-of-way along Hughes Road need to be cut back, the City should not undertake the work itself. That cost should be borne by the property owners themselves.
- It is good to see Lucas Construction in the Bayou Crest subdivision finishing up the project.
- Welcome to the City's new Finance Director, Penny Hunter.
- Condolences to the family of Rosella Scott. Her funeral will be held at Mount Carmel Baptist Church on Thursday at 11:00 a.m.
- Condolences to the Cortez family on its loss.
- Council Member King thanked Mayor Pro Tem Suderman and every other attendee for attending a recent gathering of Galveston County Mayors. The event was designed to improve communication and understanding between governmental institutions and the public.
- Condolences to the McKamp family on their loss.
- The next Knights of Columbus fish fry is scheduled for August 7, 5:30-7:00 p.m., and as drive-through only.

#### **ITEM 6.) REPORTS:**

- A. Update on Activities of the Houston-Galveston Area Council (Council Member King).

Council Member King gave an update on Houston-Galveston Area Council's three meetings on July 21, 2020, and thanked City Secretary Alun Thomas for disseminating information regarding those meetings to Council.

- B. Update on Activities of the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership (Council Member Decker).

Council Member Decker updated Council on the July 21 meeting of the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership, remarking that attendance from those in the headwaters of Dickinson Bayou remains poor.

- C. City Administrator's Report and Update on Public Works Projects (City Administrator Chris Heard).

City Administrator Chris Heard addressed Council, noting that his report was included in the Council Packet. He said that Public Works is increasing its number of filled positions (with approximately 9 employees now) and a new Superintendent is scheduled to begin work on August 3. Crowder-Gulf will begin its desnagging operations tomorrow.

**ITEM 7.) PUBLIC COMMENTS:** At this time, any person with city-related business may speak to the Council. In compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, The City Council may not deliberate. **Comments from the public should be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes per individual speaker.**

Andrea Rivas, 302 Colony Creek Drive, Dickinson, Texas – Ms. Rivas is the organizer of last Saturday's Black Lives Matter protest. She thanked the City and Dickinson Police Department for being so accommodating. However, Ms. Rivas said that she felt unsafe during the protest due to the presence of armed counter-protesters who were clearly there to intimidate the protesters. She said that another protest is being organized for the coming weeks, and she would like a representative from the United States Department of Justice to be there to ensure fairness.

Paulette Robinson, 3152 Rose Street, Dickinson, Texas – Ms. Robinson said that she has been a resident of Dickinson for 17 years. The armed counter-protesters at Saturday's Black Lives Matter protest, she said, were not needed when Dickinson Police Department was there to protect the young people who were protesting. She believed that the counter-protesters wanted something to happen at the protest.

**ITEM 8.) CONSENT AGENDA: CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

The following items are considered routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will not be a separate discussion on these items unless a Council member requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and discussed after the consent agenda.

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Council Workshop Meeting of July 14, 2020.
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of July 14, 2020.

Council Member Wilson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, and Council Member Deats seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

**VOTE:**

6 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker, King)

0 NAYS

**MOTION PASSED**

- ITEM 9.) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING:** Resolution Number 1851-2020 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DICKINSON, TEXAS, ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL FROM HUITT-ZOLLARS, INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF IMPROVING THE CITY’S ROAD AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM FOR OAK DRIVE BETWEEN PIN OAK DRIVE AND SUNSET DRIVE; AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE AN AGREEMENT FOR SUCH SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF PREAMBLE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Council Member Suderman made a motion to approve the Resolution, and Council Member Decker seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

**VOTE:**

6 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker, King)

0 NAYS

**MOTION PASSED**

- ITEM 10.) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING:** Resolution Number 1852-2020 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DICKINSON, TEXAS AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING MEMBERSHIP IN BAYTRAN BAY AREA HOUSTON TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF THE CITY AND ITS CITIZENS WITH RESPECT TO ENHANCING REGIONAL MOBILITY; AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF \$2,500 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES; PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF PREAMBLE; AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BY THE MAYOR; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Council Member Wilson made a motion to approve the Resolution, and Council Member Suderman seconded the motion. Council Member Deats said that there was no executive summary in the Council Packet, so he did not know what benefits the City would realize from becoming a member of the partnership. Mayor Masters said that the City has been asked many times to join, and that joining the partnership would give the City a place at the table at this advocacy group. She noted that it is not a governmental entity, but it is an important group that is focused on future mobility in the area. City Administrator Chris Heard said that many local cities are already members. There being no further discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

**VOTE:**

6 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker, King)

0 NAYS

**MOTION PASSED**

- ITEM 11.) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING:** Resolution Number 1853-2020 – **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DICKINSON, TEXAS, AWARDED REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS #2004 FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES TO HUITT-ZOLLARS, INC. AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE AN AGREEMENT FOR SUCH SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF PREAMBLE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Council Member Deats said that the item lacked an executive summary detailing what it is and lacked a bid tabulation sheet. He asked that Council delay consideration of the Resolution until the next meeting to allow for Council to learn more about it. City Administrator Chris Heard said that he, Mayor Masters, and Director of Community Services Kola Olayiwola conducted the review of submissions, with Huitt-Zollars scoring the highest. Mr. Heard also said that the Resolution was time-sensitive; it is needed for an application that is due at the end of October.

Council Member Deats made a motion to table consideration of the Resolution to the next Council meeting, and Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. Mayor Masters commented that the review was literally conducted in one day so that the Resolution could be included on this meeting's agenda. There being no further discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

**VOTE:**

6 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker, King)

0 NAYS

**MOTION PASSED**

- ITEM 12.) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING:** Resolution Number 1854-2020 – **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DICKINSON, TEXAS, APPROVING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF DICKINSON, TEXAS, AND GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS REGARDING FUNDING FROM THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND UNDER THE CARES ACT, WHICH PERMITS TRANSFERS OF FUNDING TO OTHER UNITS OF GOVERNMENT; PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF PREAMBLE; AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BY THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Council Member King made a motion to approve the Resolution, and Council Member Skipworth seconded the motion.

City Administrator Chris Heard explained the reasoning behind the Resolution and confirmed that COVID-19 testing is an expense that is covered under the CARES Act. Mr. Heard explained that he was unsure if the City had received its CARES Act funding already, but that the Resolution would allow the City to pay invoices from Galveston County Health District (GCHD) for residents of Dickinson. Council discussed the difference between the city limits of Dickinson and the far-larger Dickinson mailing address area, with some members of Council expressing concern that the City's allocation of funding would be spent on many people who are not residents of the city. Mr. Heard said that GCHD's jurisdiction tracking is far from perfect, but that it is the best information available to us. There being no further discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

**VOTE:**

6 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker, King)

0 NAYS

**MOTION PASSED**

**ITEM 13.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The City Council will now hold a closed executive meeting pursuant to the provision of Chapter 551, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes annotated, in accordance with the authority contained in:

- A. Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney regarding pending litigation and matters in which the duty of the City Attorney requires to be discussed in closed meeting.
- B. Section 551.074 – Personnel Matter – Discussion to Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline or Dismissal of the City Administrator.

Mayor Masters recessed the regular meeting at 8:25 p.m.

**ITEM 14.) RECONVENE**

Mayor Masters reconvened the regular meeting at 10:26 p.m.

**ITEM 15.) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING:** Matters Discussed in Executive Session.

None.

**ITEM 16.) ADJOURN**

Council Member Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 p.m., and Council Member Suderman seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

**VOTE:**

6 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker, King)

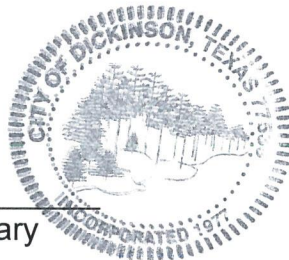
0 NAYS


**MOTION PASSED**

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this the 11th day of August, 2020.

**ATTEST:**

  
Alun W. Thomas, City Secretary



  
Julie Masters, Mayor